

OFFICE OF THE NASSAU COUNTY ATTORNEY

ORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICE

- The Appeals Bureau handles the appellate work for all litigating bureaus in the office, and thus has a varied caseload including constitutional, administrative, employment, tax and social service law litigation in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, New York State Court of Appeals and other appellate courts. In addition, the Bureau assists other bureaus in complex motion practice at the trial court level in litigation with significant municipal implications.
- The Family Court Bureau has three major areas of responsibility: **(1)** Representing the Department of Social Services in child abuse and neglect actions against parents and caregivers. The attorneys are directly involved in the investigation of allegations, as they prepare cases for settlement conferences and trial. **(2)** Enforcing child support orders on behalf of out-of-state custodial parents and their children and on behalf of the Department of Social Services to recoup public assistance. **(3)** Investigating and prosecuting juveniles who have been arrested for crimes.

In all areas, the Bureau handles complicated litigation that includes motions and trial practice.

- The General Litigation Bureau handles federal litigation, including civil rights and employment discrimination cases, state court commercial and environmental matters, as well as state litigation including responding to Article 78 petitions.

The Bureau actively practices in all courts, aggressively defending the County through complicated motion practice, depositions, and all phases of discovery and at trial. Bureau motion practice is multi-faceted, including protective orders, privilege, and particular municipal issues such as Monell findings. Experienced trial counsel represents the County in court at pre-trial conferences and at trial, from jury selection through verdict. Newly admitted attorneys are actively engaged in motion practice and discovery.

- The Labor Bureau defends the County against employment and labor law claims as well as discrimination claims before federal, state and local human rights tribunals. The Bureau also works closely with the Office of Labor Relations in defending the County against employment grievances and union arbitrations. Examples of complex municipal issues addressed by this Bureau include the interpretation of the County's Military Leave policy, Family Medical Leave Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and employee safety and protection.
- The Legal Counsel Bureau drafts and comments on state and local legislation, and advises on implementation of state and local laws and initiatives. The Bureau also provides legal opinions and day-to-day advice to the Executive staff and every department of the County on such matters as compliance with the County's Code of Ethics, the Freedom of Information Law, and procurement requirements, as well as on privacy issues (HIPAA and confidentiality), employment matters, and first amendment issues.
- The Municipal Finance Bureau handles all finance matters for the County, including the issuance of debt by the County or related entities such as the Nassau County Sewer and Storm Water Finance Authority.
- The Municipal Transactions Bureau represents the County on a broad range of contractual matters, including real estate, procurement of goods and services, concessions, and inter-municipal agreements. The Bureau is instrumental in key County initiatives. In 2011, the Bureau represented the County in significant transactions such as the sale of the former Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Bethpage, the sale of the Mitchel Field leases rental stream and the acquisition of 23 acres of land and improvements of surplus Navy property in Mitchel Field. The Bureau drafted inter-municipal and other agreements with different municipalities and third parties for various park improvement, road transfers, sewer/storm water improvement and brownfield remediation projects.

- The Tax Certiorari and Condemnation Bureau handles real property tax review cases known as Article 7 proceedings for commercial and residential properties representing the County in Supreme Court on a regular basis. In addition to Article 7 proceedings, our Bureau also defends and litigates issues regarding tax exemption issues, restoration of taxes and corrections of errors. The Bureau also handles all condemnation proceedings and acquisitions of property on behalf of the County of Nassau.
- The Tort Bureau represents the County in personal injury cases from routine slip-and-fall matters to complex road design cases. The Bureau aggressively defends the County against claims of municipal liability. Relying upon traditional municipal defenses such as the lack of prior notice, assumption of risk, and emergency response, the Bureau has an active motion practice as well as an excellent track record at trial. In addition, the Bureau pursues the County's rights to defense and indemnification, where applicable.
- The Vehicle Forfeiture Unit brings forfeiture actions on behalf of the County with respect to vehicles operated by individuals charged with operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated/impaired by drugs and/or alcohol.
- The Bureau of Claims Management is staffed with a Bureau Chief and paraprofessionals, who focus on the early settlement of claims and risk management